



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 5, Issue #4

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

10 June 2010

### **Cotton Scout School - FINAL NOTICE**

Because we will be offering a Cotton Scouting School on **17 June (next Thursday)** at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence, SC, there will be no newsletter next Thursday. This is the final notice about the scouting school. In order to get an approximation on how many will attend (for planning lunch), please pre-register by emailing me by **14 June** to indicate how many you will be bringing to the training ([green4@clemson.edu](mailto:green4@clemson.edu)). Thanks to those of you that have already responded.

The program will include presentations about cotton growth and development, how to spot and report glyphosate-resistant weeds, how to identify insects (good and bad), pesticide and safety issues, and more. Lunch will be provided, and there will be raffle-ticket prizes for those in attendance. The program is free to cotton producers, crop consultants, Extension personnel, industry representatives, and anyone else interested in cotton and scouting techniques.

*Our current industry sponsors for the scout school include the following. Thanks for your support of this program. Your support will be acknowledged in the printed program, at the meeting, and in a follow-up electronic newsletter.*

- 1. DuPont Crop Protection**
- 2. ArborOne Farm Credit**

*If you would like to help with the meeting costs (meal, breaks, and give-aways) or would like to provide raffle prizes to be given away after each speaker, please let me know.*

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

Again this year there will be a toll-free hotline for quick updates on insect problems. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Simply call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta Crop Science.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

Please help me thank Russell Duncan, agent covering Clarendon, Florence, and Williamsburg Counties, for helping organize the scouting school scheduled for next week. No other news to report this week. Please email me your comments by Wednesday for inclusion in the newsletter.

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### News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Berkeley and Dorchester Counties, reported that “things have been quiet in this area for insects in cotton or soybeans. The main thing I am seeing and hearing are growers trying to get a handle on these resistant pigweeds that made it through at plant herbicide applications and the first glyphosate sprays.”

### Cotton Situation

As of 7 June 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 98% of the crop being planted, ahead of where we were last year at 94% and the 5-yr average of 96%. Conditions were described as 1% excellent, 59% good, 37% fair, 3% poor, and 0% very poor for the crop. Conditions have improved due to recent rainfall, but most places are in need of more.

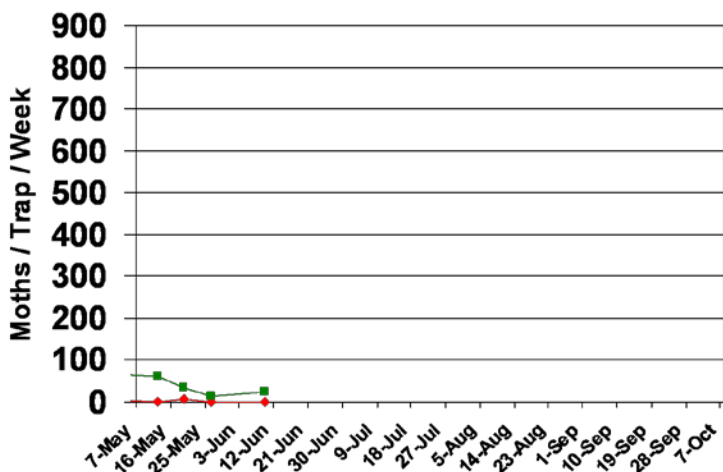
### Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



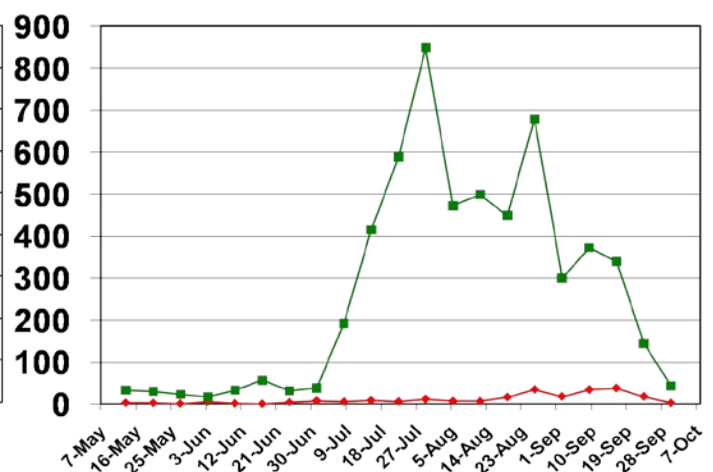
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season and last season are presented. The scales on the charts are the same to illustrate where we are compared with last year. Again, trap numbers are tracking about where they usually track. We will likely see a little “bump” in numbers next week, another lull, and a population explosion during mid-July, as we always do. The bollworm continues to be an important pest of cotton and soybean, so we will continue to monitor the progress of this pest until that changes.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010**



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2009**



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## Plant Bugs?

I have heard a few comments about plant bugs, more specifically the tarnished plant bug (*Lygus lineolaris*), being an issue in selected fields across the state line in Georgia. This pest can be injurious to squares, blooms, and small bolls, but it is typically/historically not a problem in South Carolina and much of the Southeast. Most problems with this pest occur from Alabama to and through the mid-southern states. In our area, monitor square retention, and look for this pest, but also remember that we can stand some early-season loss of squares and not see a decline in yield. In fact, some research data actually demonstrates that a yield increase can result from the very early losses of pre-floral buds. The trick in our region is to find a balance between some minor losses and potential yield compensation and treatable levels of plant bugs that can negatively impact yield. Most fields will not require treatment for plant bugs, but occasionally we do have fields that need treatment. Most of the fields that require treatment in our region tend to be ones that are near the first week of bloom (a window of a week or two on either side of the first week of bloom). For now, try to keep square retention at or above 75%, realizing that much of the abortion of squares can be due to environmental factors (drought followed by rain, extended cloudy conditions, etc.). Any application of insecticide during the early-squaring stage will likely create problems with aphids or spider mites, so be sure that you absolutely need the spray when “pulling the trigger” for plant bugs. If you absolutely need to treat for plant bugs before bloom, consider using one of the “neonicotinoid” insecticides. Thiamethoxam (Centric) or imidacloprid (Trimax, Couraze, etc.) would be a good choice, but a neonicotinoid-like material, such as flonicamid (Carbine), would also be appropriate because the “neonics” will also offer good control of aphids and will not flare secondary pests the way that OPs or pyrethroids will. See the Cotton Insect Control Guide (below) for specifics on rates.



Nymph (5<sup>th</sup> instar), left; several immature stages and adult, center; and nymph and adult of *Lygus lineolaris* on square, right.

## Cotton Insect Control Guide

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/ENTOM/IC97.pdf>

## Soybean Situation

As of 7 June 2010, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 61% of the crop being planted, well ahead of last year (53%) and just ahead of the 5-yr average of 59%. About 50% of soybeans have emerged, ahead of where we were last year at 42% and the 5-yr average of 44%. Conditions were

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described as 3% excellent, 66% good, 27% fair, and 4% poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### **Soybean Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2010 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/PAGES/AGRO/SL1.pdf>

### **Pest Management Handbook - 2010**

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2010 Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/cotton.html>

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/index.html>

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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